

Sinclair Broadcasting is obligated by law to serve the public interest, as it has been granted access to and use of the public airwaves free of charge. Their charge is, together of course with providing entertainment, to further the aims of our democracy. But the sort of partisan centralized decision that Sinclair is taking in forcing their stations to air an anti-Kerry documentary days before the election shows the danger of insufficient regulation.

Rather than a program produced at "News Central" far away, what we should be seeing is more coverage of the issues that actually affect us – and done so in as non-partisan a way as is feasible (which the current anti-Kerry documentary is clearly not). This large company's control of the airwaves means that we get less of what we need for the healthy functioning of our democracy.

Sinclair's actions show why it is imperative to strengthen media ownership rules, and why the license renewal process needs to involve more than a returned postcard. Thank you.